

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
Healthy Alternatives for Youth and Families Program – (\$697,285 grant)

The Healthy Alternative for Youth and Families program is anchored in the evidence-based Functional Family Therapy (FFT) model but also includes Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and a special bi-weekly Juvenile Court calendar for program monitoring and oversight. Services will be provided within the cities of Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale as well as several unincorporated communities; these communities account for 80% of juvenile referrals to Probation.

The cornerstone of this program is the multi-disciplinary team comprised of a Supervising Probation Officer, Deputy Probation Officers, a Mental Health Clinician Supervisor and Mental Health Clinicians. This team provides a continuum of care through individualized assessments and treatment planning (incorporating the needs of the entire family), integrated case management, linkage/referrals to culturally appropriate community services including GRIP (Gang Resistance Intervention Program), vocational opportunities, substance use/abuse education and treatment, and transition planning. Youth involved in Court and Community Schools will be provided ART services within their classroom environments and, when necessary, participants will receive Independent Living Skills education and transitional housing options.

Eligible minors are ordered by the court to participate in the program; participants, along with their families, will be monitored frequently by the court using incentives and/or sanctions to encourage compliance with treatment requirements rather than detention. Individuals who are at the highest risk for removal from their home environment will be given priority to the program once screened and assessed. Approximately 55 individuals/families will receive FFT program services for up to 4 months, after which families will progress to the FFT Generalization phase for an additional 6 months. Referrals and linkage to Family to Family services, a team decision making approach involving all service providers, staff and families when making placement decisions, will also be available.

Project Director: Bill Damiano, Probation Division Director
(707) 268-3305; bdamiano@co.humboldt.ca.us